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INCOMING TELEGRAM *Department of State* Incl-Not File

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Rec'd: November 26, 1961
2:32 p.m.

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 11652, Sec. 3(E) and 5(D)
By W.W.M. NARS Date 3/9/73

FROM: CHMAAG VIETNAM

TO: Secretary of State

NO: MAGAR-OT (OP) 4145, 260803Z, NOVEMBER

Cy to Distrib 12/5

ACTION CINCPAC, INFORMATION USARPAC, USARJ, DCSOPS DA, ISA/OASD, JCS, USARYIS, DEPARTMENT STATE, SUBIC BAY NAVAL CDR, MSTS

1. REFERENCES:
1. USARPAC TWX RJ 98992, 080333Z NOV 61.
B. USARPAC TWX GX 99110, 160152Z NOV 61
C. MAAG VN TWX, MAGAR-TD 3382, 160209Z NOV 61.
D. MAAG VN TWX, MAGAR-OT 4026, 200643Z NOVSRYQ
E. STATE DEPT TWX, DEPTEL TO SAIGON 619.
F. USARPAC TWX RJ 99337, 250345Z NOV 61.

2. AFTER DETAILED TACTICAL AND LOGISTICS CONSIDERATIONS, I INITIALLY PLAN TO STATION ONE H-21 CO (-ONE SECTION) IN SAIGON AREA AT TAN SON NHUT AIRPORT IN SUPPORT III VN CORPS AND UNDER OPERATIONAL CONTROL US ADVISOR TO III VN CORPS AND SECOND H-21 CO AT QUI NHON IN SUPPORT II VN CORPS AND UNDER OPERATIONAL CONTROL US ADVISOR TO II VN CORPS. US ADVISOR TO I CORPS WILL HAVE PRIORITY USE OF ONE PLATOON FROM QUI NHON H-21 COMPANY ON COORDINATION WITH II CORPS ADVISOR.

3. COORDINATION IS PRESENTLY BEING EFFECTED BETWEEN AM EMB SAIGON AND PRES DIEM, WHICH WILL INSURE THAT BOTH COMPANIES WITH ALL THEIR EQUIPMENT REMAIN US PROPERTY UNDER MY COMMAND.

4. IN THAT PERSONNEL OF BOTH HELICOPTER COMPANIES WILL REQUIRE CONSIDERABLE ORIENTATION AND OPERATION INSTRUCTIONS, STRONGLY URGE THAT THEY REMAIN ABOARD USNS CORE IN SAIGON HARBOR (OR 3 MILES OFF-SHORE IF POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS DICTATE) FOR LONG ENOUGH TO ACCOMPLISH THIS ESSENTIAL TASK FOLLOWING SHIP ARRIVAL AT SAIGON. CORE CAN FLY-OFF AND OFF-LOAD PERSONNEL AND EQUIPMENT DESTINED FOR

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SAIGON DEPLOYMENT. SHIP SHOULD THEN PROCEED QUI NHON HARBOR TO FLY-OFF AND OFF-LOAD UNIT DESTINED FOR QUI NHON DEPLOYMENT. THIS IS MOST EFFECTIVE AND ECONOMICAL PROCEDURE, ESPECIALLY IN CONSIDERATION OF TONNAGE INVOLVED AS WELL AS LACK OF SURFACE SECURITY PRESENTLY EXISTENT. REQUEST YOU DIRECT THIS PROCEDURE.

5. CONCUR WITH REFERENCE 1 F EXCEPT TO URGE THAT AIRCRAFT SPACE PARTS PROBLEM BE EXAMINED IN COMPLETE DETAIL BY RESPONSIBLE LOGISTIC SUPPORT AGENCIES. OPERATIONAL REQUIREMENTS WILL DEMAND A DAILY MINIMUM 75 PERCENT IN COMMISSION RATE FOR HELICOPTERS OF BOTH COMPANIES. AIRCRAFT FLYING HOURS WILL BE IN CONSONANCE WITH COMBAT OPERATIONAL DATA IN CIMN A, TABLE IV, SB1 - 1, DTD 1 JUL 61.

6. CAPT BUFFINGTON WILL PROCEED TO OKINAWA ON FASTEST AVAILABLE AIR TRANSPORT TO MEET ADVANCE PARTIES. IN THIS REGARD ADVANCE PARTIES FROM BOTH HELICOPTER COMPANIES SHOULD ARRIVE SAIGON AT LEAST ONE WEEK AHEAD OF MAIN BODY ARRIVAL. SEE PARA 7 BELOW. IN VIEW OF FACT THAT BOTH COMPANIES WILL BE IN OPERATIONAL USE ASAP AFTER THEIR ARRIVAL ON STATION, RECOMMEND THAT HIGHLY QUALIFIED LOGISTICS SPECIALISTS FROM USARYIS ACCOMPANY EACH ADVANCE PARTY TO SAIGON AND REMAIN UNTIL AFTER ARRIVAL OF COMPANIES TO EXPEDITE ACTION ON FILLING EMERGENCY REQUISITIONS AND MOVING PRIORITY SUPPLIES TO BOTH SAIGON AND QUI NHON. COMPANY DEPLOYED TO QUI NHON WILL BE EXPECTED TO OPERATE UNDER COMPLETE FIELD CONDITIONS INITIALLY. COMPANY (A) DEPLOYED TO SAIGON CAN EXPECT TO HAVE LIMITED COVERED STORAGE AND HANGAR SPACE. PERSONNEL OF BOTH UNITS SHOULD BE PREPARED TO LIVE IN TENTS AND EAT COMBAT RATIONS FOR FIRST THIRTY DAYS AFTER ARRIVAL. SUBSEQUENTLY BASE AIRFIELD FACILITIES WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE OR CONSTRUCTED, BUT PLATOONS ON OPERATIONAL MISSIONS WILL LIVE UNDER COMPLETED FIELD CONDITIONS AS A MATTER OF HABIT.

7. REF 1E. IT IS IMPORTANT THAT HELICOPTER COMPANIES NOT

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REPEAT NOT ARRIVE IN VIETNAM BEFORE NECESSARY INTER-GOVERNMENT ARRANGEMENTS DIRECTED BY US SECY OF STATE HAVE BEEN MADE BETWEEN US AMBASSADOR HERE AND PRES DIEM. SHOULD THESE UNITS ARRIVE SAIGON PREMATURELY THE US POSITION ON THIS SUBJECT MAY WELL BE WEAKENED SIGNIFICANTLY. FOR THIS REASON RECOMMEND UNITS BE HELD SUBIC UNTIL ABOVE ARRANGEMENTS ARE ACCOMPLISHED.

8. REPEAT RECOMMENDATION THAT THIS ENTIRE SUBJECT BE RECLASSIFIED TO A DEGREE WHICH WILL PERMIT NECESSARY COORDINATION WITH INTERESTED REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM AGENCIES.

9. EMBASSY CONCURS IN THIS MESSAGE AND REQUESTS THAT CARE BE TAKEN TO AVOID INADVERTENT ANNOUNCEMENTS CONCERNING DELIVERY OF THESE COS. TO VIETNAM. SCP-4.

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